

Application Number 10/550118
Response to the Office Action dated 01/02/2008

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the following remarks.

A paragraph of the specification beginning at page 4, line 18 has been amended.

Claims 1-6 have been objected to because of informalities. The specification has been amended to define ROM as a read-only memory device. Therefore, the objection to claims 1-6 should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto et al. (U.K. Patent Application Publication No. GB 2,216,660) in view of Pini (U.S. Patent No. 5,159,931). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Yamamoto discloses an ultrasonic diagnostic apparatus that performs a method of correcting an ultrasonic picture signal (see page 2, 4th para. of this page). The reference, however, fails to disclose an encoder correction ROM that stores an actual swing scanning angle of the ultrasonic transducer obtained by counting pulses from a rotary encoder and outputs such stored actual swing scanning angle to outside that claim 1 requires. Instead, the correction system of the reference is configured to adjust an output signal from an encoder during scanning in the forward and reverse movements, which causes two picture images, by eliminating a positional shift with a digital switch (see page 7, 2nd and 3rd paras. and page 8, 1st and 2nd paras. of each page) so as to display an ultrasonic image with a deviation between the time of the forward movement and backward movements during swinging of an ultrasonic transducer (see *id.*; page 8, 3rd para. of this page; and Fig. 3). Accordingly, the reference can correct a limited deviation based on the time difference, in which the shape of curves for the forward and backward movements are treated as the same as shown in Figs. 2(b) and 3 of the reference. Thus, the reference apparatus does not and cannot perform operations based on the actual swing scanning angle as required by claim 1. In addition, the digital switch of the reference can

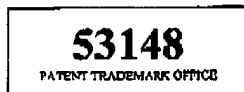
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output only 15 numerical values from 1 to 15 (see page 8, 3rd para. of this page) while a swing is a continuous movement. Therefore, the reference does not detect each count value obtained by counting pulse from a rotary encoder and store the actual swing scanning angle of the transducer and output such stored information of the angle to outside by the encoder correction ROM (Figs. 2(b) and 3 of the reference) as claim 1 requires. Thus, claim 1 is distinguished from Yamamoto.

Pini discloses a hard disk unit mass-memory (see Fig. 9; coln. 13, line 52) but does not disclose the encoder correction ROM that stores an actual swing scanning angle of the ultrasonic transducer and outputs such stored information of the actual swing scanning angle to outside that claim 1 requires. Therefore, Pini does not remedy the deficiencies of Yamamoto.

Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1-6 should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, Applicants request reconsideration of the application in the form of a Notice of Allowance.

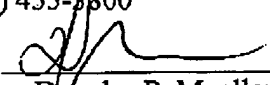


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DPM/my/ad

Respectfully submitted,

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